



Students and teachers from East High School in Salt Lake City walk out of school to protest the HB15 voucher bill, on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Associated Press

## Pandemic, culture wars revive 'school choice' policy push

Associated Press

**SALT LAKE CITY (AP)** — Nichole Mason first became concerned when she learned administrators at her children's public school were allowing transgender students to use girls' bathrooms. Her frustrations mounted when she felt her children's next school went too far with how they enforced COVID regulations during the pandemic. Now, the mother of five is among a swell-

ing number of parents around the United States funneling those frustrations into a renewed push to get state lawmakers to create taxpayer-funded programs to help parents pay for other educational options including private school, home-schooling or hybrid models. In Utah, a proposal would allow roughly 5,000 students to apply for \$8,000 scholarships.

Continued on Page 2

## MANA successfully celebrated Dia di Betico



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# Pandemic, culture wars revive 'school choice' policy push

Continued from Front

"If right now my kid's school is getting \$10,000 a year to educate him, he's not thriving and I could do a better job educating him with \$8,000," said Mason, who co-founded the Utah chapter of the group Parents United. "Then I feel a moral obligation to give him an outstanding education instead of a satisfactory education."

At least a dozen other states are considering similar legislation in what has emerged as a landmark year for school choice battles. With memories fresh from pandemic-era school closures and curriculum battles — particularly over how matters of gender and race are taught — Mason and legions of parents like her are trekking to the marble floors of their state Capitols to fight to create education savings accounts, also known as ESAs. Though they vary, these voucher-style proposals have been introduced in states including Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas and Utah.

No state has more legislation pending than Virginia, where Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin won his race for governor in 2021 in the liberal-leaning state after making education grievances a key tenet of his campaign.



People give a thumbs up as they agree with one of the speakers during the Senate Education Committee public comments about HB215, on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Additionally, GOP governors in Oklahoma and Nevada have suggested plans to push for voucher-style policies and politicians in Arkansas and Florida have said they plan to expand pre-existing programs that are currently limited to certain student populations.

"School vouchers and education savings accounts were kind of in retreat for a while. They were sort of in vogue in the '90s and then charter schools kind of supplanted them," said Rob Shand, an education policy professor at American University.

Now, he added, "school choice advocates are trying to capitalize on discontent with the public school system. They see a sort of a moment to try to push for push for some more choice-friendly or alternative policies."

If enacted, education savings accounts could transform the nature of state government's relationship with K-12 schools and deepen contrasts between how education looks in red versus blue states.

Funneling public funds toward private schools is a decades-old idea that

first gained traction in the 1990s. Today, "school choice" policies in effect in conservative states include vouchers, scholarships, education savings accounts and tax credits.

Tax credits allow families to deduct amounts from their overall tax burden to be used toward alternatives to public school. Vouchers traditionally allow parents to take the funds that would otherwise be used to educate their children in public schools and put them toward tuition for accredited private or religious schools. Education sav-

ings accounts and scholarship programs are more expansive, giving parents additional latitude on how they can spend the funds, including on home-schooling. ESAs have steadily grown in popularity over traditional vouchers due to legal challenges in states with constitutional limits on sending public money directly to religious organizations. Statewide ESA programs now exist in Arizona and West Virginia. And in Tennessee, where a court ruled last year that a voucher program in the Nashville and Memphis area is constitutional, efforts are underway to expand them to the Chattanooga area.

In Utah, where the proposal passed the House and Senate this week, lawmakers coupled the proposal with teacher raises. Though one school choice lobbyist said she wanted to "destroy public education" with the proposal, supportive lawmakers hesitate to call their idea "vouchers" and emphasize that no more than \$42 million could be used for the scholarships. In Iowa, students with vouchers would receive \$7,600 — the amount sent to schools as part of the state's per-pupil formula — and \$1,200 additional dollars would be sent to public schools in their district. In South Carolina, only kids from Medicaid-eligible families could apply. □



Former Vice President Mike Pence speaks with reporters, Dec. 6, 2022, at Garden Sanctuary Church of God in Rock Hill, S.C.

Associated Press

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**  
Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Former Vice President Mike Pence said

Friday that he takes "full responsibility" after classified documents were found at his Indiana home.

## Pence: 'Mistakes were made' in classified records handling

In his first public comments since the discovery, Pence said he hadn't been aware that the documents were in his residence but his lack of knowledge wasn't an excuse. "Let me be clear about something: Those classified documents should not have been in my personal residence," Pence said at Florida International University, where he was talking about the economy and promoting his new book, "So Help Me God." "Mistakes were made."

The discovery made pub-

lic by Pence's team earlier this week marked the latest in a string of recoveries of sensitive papers from the homes of current and former top U.S. officials. The Department of Justice was already investigating the discovery of classified documents in former President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort and at President Joe Biden's home in Delaware and his former Washington office.

The announcement of the documents in Pence's possession came five months

after he told The Associated Press that he did not take classified documents with him when he left the vice presidency. "No, not to my knowledge," he said when asked if he had retained any such information.

Pence said he decided to undertake the search of his home "out of an abundance of caution" after recent disclosures by Biden's team that documents were found at his former office and in his Delaware home. □



# GOP Chair Ronna McDaniel defeats rival in leadership vote

By STEVE PEOPLES

AP National Political Writer

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel won her bid Friday to lead the GOP for two more years, prevailing in an election that highlighted fierce internal divisions that threaten to plague the party into the next presidential season.

McDaniel, whom Donald Trump tapped as RNC chair in 2016, won the secret ballot vote 111 to 51. The high-profile election played out inside a luxury resort on the Southern California coast as the RNC's 168 voting members — activists and elected officials from all 50 states — gathered for the committee's annual winter meeting.

With the victory, McDaniel becomes the longest-serving RNC chair since the Civil War. Yet friends and foes alike agree that she will not be leading the RNC from a position of strength.

While Trump privately backed McDaniel, powerful forces from within his "Make America Great Again" movement lined up behind McDaniel's chief rival, Trump attorney Harriet Dhillon.



Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel speaks at the committee's winter meeting in Dana Point, Calif., Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

Dhillon waged an aggressive challenge against McDaniel that featured allegations of chronic mispending, mismanagement and even religious bigotry against Dhillon's Sikh faith — all claims that McDaniel denied. Above all, the case against McDaniel centered on deep dissatisfaction with the direction of the party after continuous election losses

since Trump tapped her to lead the committee following his upset 2016 victory. Ahead of the vote, Dhillon cited the Republican base's overwhelming desire for change and threatened political retribution for RNC members who dared support McDaniel's reelection.

"Ignoring the will of the voters in your state is a good way not to get elected

again," Dhillon told The Associated Press.

Before the vote, McDaniel pleaded with RNC members to put their differences aside after it was over.

"Coming together is the beginning. Staying together is progress. But working together is success," she said. "We have to come together after this meeting and focus on what we have ahead of us."

Several high-profile Trump allies publicly called for McDaniel's ouster. Kari Lake, the failed Arizona gubernatorial candidate who has spread debunked claims of voter fraud, courted RNC members on Dhillon's behalf this week inside the conference hotel. And from afar, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a likely 2024 presidential contender, spoke out against McDaniel on the eve of the vote.

"I think we need a change. I think we need to get some new blood in the RNC," DeSantis said in an interview with Florida's Voice, citing three "substandard election cycles in a row" under McDaniel's leadership.

Meanwhile, Trump quietly supported McDaniel, a niece of Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, and dispatched a handful of his lieutenants to Southern California this week to advocate on her behalf.

The former president avoided making a public endorsement at McDaniel's request, according to those with direct knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations. □

Associated Press

# FEC wants answers on Rep. Santos' chaotic treasurer switch

By MICHAEL R. SISAK

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Rep. George Santos' campaign committee is facing new questions from federal regulators after submitting paperwork listing a new treasurer who says he never took the job. The Federal Election Commission sent a letter Thursday to the Devolder Santos for Congress campaign seeking clarity on the switch. It's the latest scrutiny for the New York congressman who has been caught fabricating many elements of his life story.

The letter said the first-year Republican's campaign "may have failed to include the true, correct, or complete treasurer information"

on paperwork Wednesday listing Thomas Datwyler as its new treasurer and custodian of records.

Five other political fundraising committees linked to Santos received the same letters after they, too, filed paperwork Wednesday listing Datwyler as their new treasurer. The campaign and committees have until March 2 to respond. If they fail to do so, paperwork listing Datwyler as treasurer will be placed in the "unverified" section of the FEC's website and the committees could face additional enforcement action.

If Santos' campaign is found to have knowingly and willfully made any "materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or

representation" on its paperwork, it could potentially face criminal charges, the FEC's letter said.

A message seeking comment was left with a campaign lawyer.

Devolder Santos for Congress filed a new statement of organization on Wednesday listing Datwyler as treasurer and custodian of records, replacing Nancy Marks, who had held both positions since Santos first ran for Congress in 2020.

The switch came amid lingering questions about irregularities in the committee's financial reports and the source of Santos' wealth.

Datwyler said through a lawyer, Derek Ross, that he had declined the job

and was not aware that he would be listed as treasurer on the campaign's filings, which included what it said was his electronic signature, along with his email and mailing addresses.

"On Monday we informed the Santos campaign that Mr. Datwyler would not be serving as treasurer," Datwyler's lawyer, Derek Ross, said in a statement. □



Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., leaves a House GOP conference meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023.

Associated Press



# DOJ appointee releases new plan for 'tenuous' Jackson water

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG  
Associated Press. Report for America

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) —

The interim manager appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice to reform the troubled water system in Mississippi's capital city released a new financial plan Friday to change the way Jackson bills for water and spend hundreds of millions of federal relief funds paying down the system's debt.

The plan would relieve the water system of its debt and introduce a new billing model that would become effective in the budget year that begins on Oct. 1. The proposed reforms would allow Jackson to pay for the costs of improving and operating a water system that is in such disrepair it could fail again at any moment, according to Ted Henifin, the interim water manager. "I've got to tell you, I could walk out of here right now and lose the system. It's that tenuous," Henifin said at a Friday news conference. "We've done a lot to improve this system, but it might fail tomorrow."

Henifin said that Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba called him in a panic earlier Friday because he had lost water in his home. The mayor was worried the system had



Ted Henifin, left, the City of Jackson water system third-party administrator, addresses media questions during a news conference at City Hall as Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba listens on Dec. 5, 2022, in Jackson, Miss.

failed again. Repeated breakdowns have caused many in the city of about 150,000 to go days and weeks at a time without safe running water.

The plan would change the way Jackson issues fees for water use. Water fees would be established as a percentage of assessed property values, subject to a monthly cap. This is Henifin's proposed solution to a loss of revenue Jackson has experienced as its tax base eroded over the past few decades.

Increasing maintenance costs in a city where 25% of residents are in poverty could lead to increases in water rates, further accelerating migration out of Jackson to the suburbs. This represents a "slow death spiral" that many cities in the United States have faced over the past four decades, according to Henifin's proposal.

The new rate structure would reduce the system's dependence on city water meters, which have been mired in problems, Henifin said.

In the past, some residents have been billed too little or too much, and some have not received bills for long periods of time. But legislation passed by Mississippi state senators Thursday would ban Henifin's proposed solution. The bill, which is being pushed by Republican legislators from outside Jackson, would require that utilities charge residents based on the amount of water they use. Metering systems are used to calculate how much water people use.

Associated Press

On Friday, Henifin said the city's past challenges with water meters would make it difficult to rebuild confidence in a metering system.

The metering bill isn't the only legislation advancing in the state legislature that would impact Jackson's water system. Another bill proposes an eventual transfer of water, wastewater and storm water services provided by Jackson, a Democratic-led city, to a new regional entity's "ownership, management and control."

Henifin told The Associated Press that he believes the bill could be motivated by a desire by state officials to access the large pot of federal dollars earmarked for Jackson's water.

Henifin's plan would also reserve around \$290 million from a loan fund included in an \$800 million trove of federal dollars to pay off the water system's existing debt. The move would improve the water utility's credit rating so it could borrow more money in the future for further improvements, Henifin said.

Paying off debt using federal dollars would ensure that one-time funding is used for one-time expenses. "That's business 101," Henifin said. □

# Ohio city rewrites abortion ban, advocacy groups end lawsuit



With the U.S. Capitol in the background, anti-abortion demonstrators march toward the U.S. Supreme Court during the March for Life on Jan. 20, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Groups advocating for professional social workers and abortion rights said

they have succeeded in forcing a small Ohio city to significantly narrow its ban on conducting or recommending abortions and so have ended their legal challenge.

The lawsuit by the National Association of Social Workers and the Abortion Fund of Ohio argued that the law, passed in May 2021, represented an "extraordinarily broad" infringement on the constitutional rights of due process and free speech.

The groups' lawyers at the ACLU of Ohio and Democracy Forward further alleged the ban violated

Ohio's home-rule provisions.

The city of Lebanon, in southwest Ohio, opted to revise the law rather than defend it in court. Enforcement had been placed on hold while that work took place.

Opponents said they dropped their lawsuit Jan. 12 after provisions were removed that made aiding and abetting an abortion a crime, and the law was further clarified to assure that providing transportation, instructions, money or abortion doula services, including counseling, were still allowed.

Lebanon's ban was one of four that cropped up around Ohio in 2021, part of a national effort to ban abortion "one city at a time" by the Texas-based Sanctuary Cities of the Unborn organization overseen by Mark Lee Dickson.

It was the first local ban to be challenged nationally after a leak revealed the U.S. Supreme Court planned to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

The court's ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* energized abortion opponents' state and local efforts to outlaw the procedure. □



## Germany recalls overlooked LGBT victims of Nazi persecution

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany commemorated the victims of Nazi persecution on the 78th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, placing a focus Friday on people who were incarcerated and killed because of their sexual orientations and gender identities.

Thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people were arrested and thrown into camps during Adolf Hitler's 1933-1945 dictatorship, based on anti-homosexuality laws that preceded and outlasted the Nazi era.

The speaker of Germany's parliament, Baerbel Bas, said the Nazis broadened Article 175 of the German penal code, which was introduced in 1872, to criminalize "kisses, touches, even glances" between people of the same sex, leading to accusations against tens of thousands of men.

"That was often enough to ruin their social existence," Bas told lawmakers during the solemn ceremony held annually by the Bundestag to mark the liberation of Auschwitz.



Wreaths are placed at the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe on the International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Berlin, Germany, Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

More than half of the individuals prosecuted for homosexuality were convicted, and many received lengthy prison terms or were sentenced to forced labor.

Some were forced to undergo sterilization or driven to suicide, according to the Bundestag speaker.

Those who were sent to concentration camps found themselves at the

bottom of the hierarchy, forced to wear a pink triangle that signified their supposed crimes. While the law didn't explicitly apply to women, they also faced persecution for "asocial behavior" that resulted in a similar fate during the Nazi period.

"Many were abused for medical experiments," Bas said. "Most died after a short time or were mur-

dered."

Men who were gay or suspected of being so continued to face oppression after the war ended, she added, noting that West Germany kept Article 175 on the books until 1969.

Karl Gorath, a gay man, was first convicted under the law in 1934. He was sent to the Neuengamme concentration camp and later to Auschwitz, where

he survived until its liberation by the Soviet Red Army on Jan. 27, 1945.

In 1946, more than a year after the end of the war, Gorath was prosecuted again. During a court appearance, the same judge who had convicted him during the Nazi era greeted him with the words: "You're here again."

Gorath was sentenced to five years in prison and later spent decades battling to undo the injustices done to him. His Nazi-era conviction was annulled shortly before his death in 2003. Post-war convictions were only annulled in 2017.

Bas noted it was important to continue upholding the memory of all victims of Nazi persecution and to remain vigilant to ongoing discrimination and violence against minorities, citing a fatal attack on a trans man at a gay pride event in Germany last year.

"It is dangerous to believe that we have learned enough," she said, adding that attempts to deny the singularity of the Holocaust, which saw 6 million European Jews systematically murdered, also need to be opposed. □

## Rights group: leaked El Salvador data confirm abuses

By MARCOS ALEMÁN

Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** — Human Rights Watch says it has obtained a database leaked from El Salvador's government that corroborates massive due process violations, severe prison overcrowding and deaths in custody under the emergency powers put in place last March to confront a surge in gang violence.

The global human rights organization said Friday that the database from the Ministry of Public Safety lists details about some 50,000 people arrested between the implementation of the state of exception in late March through late August.

A spokesperson for the president said they had not seen the report early Friday and had no comment.

El Salvador's Legislative Assembly approved the suspension of some fundamental rights following an outburst of violence from the country's powerful street gangs. People no longer have to be told why they are being arrested or what rights they have or given access to a lawyer. The government also suspended the right of association.

Many of the abuses have been previously reported by Human Rights Watch and local civil society organization Cristosal, but the government data added

some detail. It included the names of those arrested, their ages and gender, the charges they face, the prisons they were sent to and where they were arrested. For example, among those arrested during the period were more than 1,000 minors who were sent to pre-trial detention. In March, the country's Legislative Assembly lowered the age of criminal responsibility to 12 from 16 for gang-related crimes.

The database also pointed to staggering levels of overcrowding in El Salvador's prisons. The government is building a massive new facility, but in the meantime, more and more detainees are stuffed into existing pris-



Men who were detained under a state of emergency arrive at a detention center, transported there by National Police in a cargo truck, in Soyapango, El Salvador, Oct. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

ons while awaiting trial. As of August, the prison population had grown to more than 86,000, while according to government information in February 2021, they had a capacity of 30,000.

The government reported in November that 90 peo-

ple had died in custody since March.

The most common charge those arrested face is "unlawful association," accounting for some 39,000 of the new cases. More than 8,000 face a charge of belonging to a terrorist organization. □



## Myanmar opium cultivation surged 33% amid violence, U.N. finds

By **DAVID RISING**  
Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — The production of opium in Myanmar has flourished since the military's seizure of power, with the cultivation of poppies up by a third in the past year as eradication efforts have dropped off and the faltering economy has led more people toward the drug trade, according to a United Nations report released Thursday.

In 2022, in the first full growing season since the military wrested control of the country from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, Myanmar saw a 33% increase in cultivation area to 40,100 hectares (99,090 acres), according to the report by the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime.

"Economic, security and governance disruptions that followed the military takeover of February 2021 have converged, and farmers in remote, often conflict-prone areas in northern Shan and border states have had little option but to move back to opium," said the U.N. office's regional representa-



**A member of Pat Jasan, a grassroots organization motivated by their faith to root out the destructive influence of drugs, holds poppies as his group slashes and uproots them from a hillside, in Lung Zar village, northern Kachin State, Myanmar on Feb. 3, 2016.**

Associated Press

tive Jeremy Douglas.

The overall value of the Myanmar opiate economy, based on U.N. estimates, ranges between \$660 million and \$2 billion, depending on how much was sold locally, and how much of the raw opium was processed into heroin or other drugs. "Virtually all the heroin reported in

East and Southeast Asia and Australia originates in Myanmar, and the country remains the second-largest opium and heroin producer in the world after Afghanistan," Douglas said. "There is no comparing the two at this point as Afghanistan still produces far more, but the expansion underway in Myanmar should not be

dismissed and needs attention as it will likely continue it is directly tied to the security and economic situation we see unfolding today." The so-called Golden Triangle area, where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, has historically been a major production area for opium and hosted many of the

labs that converted it to heroin. Decades of political instability have made the frontier regions of Myanmar, also known as Burma, largely lawless, to be exploited by drug producers and traffickers.

Most of the opium exported by Myanmar goes to China and Vietnam, while heroin goes to many countries across the region, Douglas said.

"It is really where the value is for traffickers," he said. "Very high profits."

The cultivation of opium had been trending downward in recent years before the military took control of the government in 2021.

Production estimates hit a bottom of 400 metric tons (440 tons) in 2020. After rising slightly in 2021, that spiked in 2022 to an estimated 790 metric tons (870 tons), according to the report.

Since it took control of the government, the military's use of deadly force to hold on to power has escalated conflict with its civilian opponents to the point that some experts describe the country as now being in a state of civil war. □

## Hong Kong protests Biden extension of deportation protection

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Hong Kong has protested President Joe Biden's two-year extension of a program that protects residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese city living in the U.S. from deportation, accus-

ing Washington of "demonstrating sinister intentions and hegemonic bullying." An unidentified government spokesperson was quoted Friday as saying the U.S. had "wantonly" smeared Hong Kong's

National Security Law, imposed on the city by Beijing in 2020 as part of a sweeping crackdown on the democratic movement. Since the law's enactment by the Chinese legislature, at least 150 opposition politicians, activists and protesters have been taken into custody, while an unknown number of others have fled overseas.

Biden first authorized the program, the Deferred Enforced Departure for Certain Hong Kong Citizens, in August 2021 for 18 months. It was set to expire on Feb. 5 but has been extended until January 2025.

"The US Government clearly stated that its latest actions are in its 'foreign policy interest' without any attempt to disguise its motives, dem-

onstrating sinister intentions and hegemonic bullying," the Hong Kong spokesperson was quoted as saying in a statement posted on the government's official website. "The US has many laws on national security, but chooses to continue to wantonly smear" the National Security Law, the spokesperson said.

The decision to provide a temporary safe haven was in response to the law and other measures that reinforced Beijing's absolute control and undercut rights promised when the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997.

"With this action, we are demonstrating again President Biden's strong support for the people of Hong Kong in the face of increas-

ing repression by the (People's Republic of China)," the White House National Security Council said in a statement Thursday.

"We continue to strongly oppose (China's) use of its National Security Law to deny the people of Hong Kong their human rights and fundamental freedoms, undermine Hong Kong's autonomy, and chip away at Hong Kong's remaining democratic processes and institutions," the statement said.

The Hong Kong spokesperson denied any political bias in its pursuit of those wanted under the law, many of whom had taken part in the push for expanded democracy and months of anti-government protests in 2019. □



**A man walks past U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong Monday, March 15, 2021. A man walks past U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong Monday, March 15, 2021.**

Associated Press



# MANA successfully celebrated Dia di Betico

**ORANJESTAD – National Archaeological Museum of Aruba (MANA) thanks the people of Aruba for including in their celebrations for Dia di Betico the museum.**

In four hours, the museum welcomed more than 500 visitors, showing a lot of interest in our archaeological heritage. It was noteworthy how many people took the opportunity to chat with the archaeologists, ask questions to the museum employees who were present in the exhibition room, those who attended the presentation on the artifacts of old Oranjestad, and those who bought the catalogue of paintings on this special day.

Exhibition rooms were continuously packed. Children and adults spend a good time reading, listening and exchanging experiences. In the garden, a pleasant family ambiance was enjoyed. Children – as well as some parents – were working on crafts, finding Indian stamps, and taking a break to drink a coffee, tea or juice. Children quietly enjoyed a movie about taking care of monuments, titled "Un les pa Maikey", courtesy of Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba (SMFA), while they enjoyed popcorn from Pastoral Hubenil Dakota.



About 50 people were present for the lecture by archaeologist Raymundo Dijkhoff, about interesting findings in Oranjestad from the time of the Indians as well as the European period, and were impacted by all the information received. Archaeologist Harold Kelly exchanged with visitors of different ages about among other things, his investigation project related to climate change and its effects and received valuable knowledge from our local people. Fundacion 1403 was present to sell books of paintings, which almost sold out.

Dia di Betico, celebrating our national hero Betico Croes on the 25th of January, was very successful for MANA with a lot of families choosing to visit the museum. MANA is glad to see familiar faces back in the museum as well as many new faces. MANA thanks Pastoral Hubenil Dakota, F1403, SMFA and everyone who helped made this day successful.

MANA is situated in Schelpstraat 42 in Oranjestad, in the building complex Ecury. Follow them on their Facebook pages, Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba and National Archaeologi-





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It was 1938 when Mr. Eric Ponson started his journey at General Store. Ponson did not hesitate and decided to buy General Store. Buying a store and thus going from employee to owner of a business with a debt of 11.000 guilders was not an easy task.

As the saying goes: "Behind every successful man, is a strong woman". In the case of Ponson, this was no different. As General Store progressed and slowly became successful, Mrs. Irene Ponson, came in to assist her husband. Irene Ponson is a visionary, she knew exactly where and how to invest and within a short amount of time in 1970, General

Store moved to a better location at the Steenweg. This allowed for a lot more merchandise, products and employees. Supply and demand was as such, that General Store became the number 1 electrical business. Business kept going so well that the location at the Steenweg became too small and was moved later to Dakota Shopping Paradise and later to Pedro Gallego Straat. With this move, an expansion was decided upon and an electronics store in Savaneta was opened. General Store still being very successful was ready for more growth.

Ricky, Kenneth, Corine and Frans are the fruits of this marriage. Kenneth and Frans however, decided to further develop their father's legacy and continued with their mother's dream to expand the business. An expansion not in square feet only, but in merchandise as well. A great opportunity presented itself when the Ponson family was able to buy a piece of property across from the airport. In 2007 the Ponson

family moved into their brand new and huge building

After a successful opening and expansion, Kenneth and Frans who inherited their mothers vision, decided that General Store was ready for yet another expansion. With the support of Mr. Tom Barfell and management of Do it Best in the States, the construction of Do it Center commenced.

Fast forward to today. A Do it Center in Aruba, with more than 50.000 top of the line items for interior as well exterior use, building materials, STO products and a top of the line grocery store. Perseverance, responsibility, vision and the courage to invest have made Ponson's General Store as successful as it is today.

### Super Do It Center Shaba & Groceries

Located in Shaba, Noord. This is the last sibling of the Do It Center family. Here you will be able to find anything you are looking for. The building is divided into several departments from home to hardware to groceries. Everything under one roof.

Groceries? Visit the fully stocked supermarket with fresh fruits and vegetables and high class meat selections. Highly known products and brands are here for you to grab. Every week Do It Center Groceries offers its weekly special on selected items. Weekly



specials are very popular and a perfect chance for you to buy your favorite products at a reduced price.

### Need a home makeover?

Do not skip the furniture department "Leenbakker". Here, you will find a divine collection of European furniture, worldwide known for their modern and stylish features for your bedroom, bathroom, living room or kitchen. For your garden they have a wide selection of durable furniture specially made for our tropical climate. Take a walk around and find some treasures. Find the perfect accessory for your house, fitted for your personality and style. Modern, elegant, retro industrial, whatever your style is you will definitely find something for your personal taste.

Do it Center Shaba is open from Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 8PM and on Sunday's from 9AM to 6PM.

For more information go to [www.doit.aw](http://www.doit.aw)





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## The healthy school project expands

**ORANJESTAD** – On January 10, 2023, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber, the Minister of Education, Mr. Endy Croes, representatives of the Youth Health Care, Social Affairs, and the Department of Education received a presentation about the healthy school project.

This project is part of the national prevention plan, and the government designated 2023 as the year of prevention in public health.

Since 2020, a national prevention plan in place created with the support of all stakeholders in Aruba and the input of the Pan American Health Organization PAHO. Aruba is one of the

few countries in the Caribbean with a national prevention plan.

The plan implementation schedule was in 2020, but due to the pandemic that started in March 2020, it was postponed. In 2023, the national prevention plan will come into effect at full speed.

Prevention is vital in healthcare as it improves the quality of life in the community. The Minister believes in awareness campaigns for the public to live healthier lives. Education about nutrition, exercise, and regular medical checkups are essential for the community's well-being.

It is essential to start with the



children in schools to teach them about these healthy habits to reach this goal. They will teach preschool and elementary school children the importance of taking care of their health. With the government's support, they hope to convince as many schools as possible to join the healthy school project.

Soon a Ministerial decree will be signed by the Minister of Public Health, the Min-

ister of Education, the Minister of Social Affairs, and all Government departments that are part of the Healthy School program. They will disclose more details about this program in a joint press conference when the decree is signed.

The manual Scol Saludabel "Healthy School Approach for Primary Education" (in Dutch) provides more information about this project. □



## Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.



For today we received a lovely message from Tomas, Eliana, Agustin and Catalina Hartmann Hansen from Argentina.

They wrote to us saying; "We have been in Aruba more than 10 times. We love it. Aruba to me is our place in the world. Sun, Fun, lovely people and relax. It is my place on earth. Is family, enjoyment, sun, amazing beach and great people. Everything we need to recover energy for the year :)."



Thank you for sending us this awesome message sharing what Aruba means to you and your family with us and our readers! □



## Aruba's underwater wonderland



**ORANJESTAD** - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

### Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you



are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive



enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



# Carnival Queens

ORANJESTAD – Recently, the Aruba Carnival Foundation SMAC announced the winners of the Carnival Queen elections for Carnival Queen and Mrs. Carnival.

The candidates put on beautiful and colorful shows, and brought on the carnival spirit. The results are as follow:

## Carnival Queen 2023:

### Queen of Setar 2023:

Edmee Arends, representing TOB Carnival Group

### Popular Queen 2023

Edmee Arends, representing TOB Carnival Group

### Best Speech 2023

Adrianne Jacobs, representing Royal Carnival Group

### Best Show 2023

Edmee Arends, representing TOB Carnival Group



## Best Carnival Dress 2023

Edmee Arends, representing TOB Carnival Group

## 2nd Runner-up Aruba Carnival Queen 2023

Xaria Simoons, representing Colegio San Augustin

## 1st Runner-up Carnival Queen 2023

Edmee Arends, representing TOB Carnival Group

## 67th Aruba Carnival Queen 2023

Adrianne Jacobs, representing Royal Carnival Group



## Mrs. Carnaval 2023

## Mrs. Of Setar 2023

Geraldine Albertsz, representing Colegio EPI

## Popular Mrs. Carnival 2023

Geraldine Albertsz, representing Colegio EPI

## Best Speech 2023

Faridi Daou, representing TOB Carnival Group

## Best Show 2023

Geraldine Albertsz, representing Colegio EPI

## Best Carnival Dress 2023

Faridi Daou, representing TOB Carnival Group

## 1st Runner-up Mrs. Carnival 2023

Faridi Daou, representing TOB Carnival Group

## 27th Aruba Mrs. Carnival 2023

Geraldine Albertsz, representing Colegio EPI





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 38 Lets up

1 Holt of NBC News  
39 Plops down  
40 Tune

7 Reached base, in a way

11 Statue setting

12 Big book

13 Tied fast

14 Memo letters

15 Kitchen wear

16 Muralist Rivera

17 Spotted

18 Past and present

19 Bible pronoun

21 Wrath

22 Missouri River port

25 Outlaw

26 Bearing

27 Warring woman

29 Spanish hors d'oeuvre

33 Ancient Mesopotamian region

34 Shade

35 Crocus cousin

36 Old string player

37 Play group

**DOWN**

1 Eastern monks

2 Skip the ceremony

3 Point count

4 Raptors' home

5 Tied up

6 Wine choice

7 Laundry problem

8 Wigs out

9 Mental visions

10 Oust from power

16 Wild card,

18 Poison at times

20 Comic's forte

22 Feudal warrior

23 Bix Beiderbecke

24 All things considered

25 Rudiments

28 Lemon rind

30 Justice strips

31 Struck a stance

32 Pretentious

34 Hexahedron

36 Sudden flight

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E	L	O	P	E		U	T	I	C	A	
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Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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3						14			
5					16				
7					18				
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	22	23				24			
25				26					
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33					34				
35					36				
37					38				
39					40				

1-28

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

1-28

CRYPTOQUOTE

K H ' C G N H I N X H A C N N

C A F N I J K L D A L R N I J B L H A

J N B X B G A M H K H B H J A M C B L V

H K F N C . — B C K B L T X A P N X G

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GOOD FRIENDS, GOOD BOOKS AND A SLEEPY CONSCIENCE: THIS IS THE IDEAL LIFE. — MARK TWAIN

## In Your Debt: How couples can team up on debt repayment

By SARA RATHNER  
of NerdWallet

Between financially helping his parents and losing income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeremy Mazza landed into serious credit card debt. Relief came from a source he wasn't expecting: his partner, Ginna Lambert, who had come into a small inheritance. She suggested "investing" part of her bounty in their shared future by lending small amounts to Mazza that he could apply toward his debt.

It took a bit of convincing. "To have to ask for money when I was the provider and had parents who themselves were asking for money, I didn't want to follow in their footsteps and be taking," Mazza says. "But that's not what this was, this was a caring thing."

Mazza and Lambert approached the situation with open communication and specific loan terms. And for them, it's paying off: Mazza estimates his credit score went up by about 150 points. The couple, who live in Richmond, Virginia, are getting married this year, and they hope to buy a home soon as well. "I had a very, very, very vested interest in making sure my partner's credit score and finances were in as good of a shape as possible," Lambert says.

While joint debt is a shared responsibility, individual debts you bring into a relationship are ultimately yours to tackle. Still, they can get in the way of making life plans as a couple,



A couple watches the sun set from a park Saturday, July 10, 2021, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

so it may make sense for your significant other to help you with your debt in some way. But don't enter into an arrangement of this kind without a plan.

### GET VULNERABLE WITH THE FULL FINANCIAL PICTURE

It's essential to be open with each other about your individual financial situations, especially as your relationship gets more serious.

"If a couple is planning to get married, it's a good idea to have a conversation before tying the knot," says Trina Patel, a Los Angeles-based senior financial advice manager at Albert, a financial services company.

Schedule a few distraction-free money dates where you talk about what's going on for each of you. Those conversations can help you establish shared goals and figure out what actions to take to meet them, like adjusting your budget or finding ways to increase income.

"Debt can often bring feelings of guilt, shame, and

embarrassment leading spouses to not talk about the debts they have," said Leanne Rahn, a financial advisor at Fiduciary Financial Advisors in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by email. "Vulnerability is hard but remember, you and your significant other are a team."

### CONSIDER NONMONETARY WAYS TO HELP

You may be unable, or unwilling, to pay off your partner's debt. There are lots of other ways you can provide support, however. You can serve as an accountability buddy, help rethink your household budget if you live together or find ways to be more frugal in your shared spending.

Maybe you can take on some more chores at home to give your partner time to pick up additional hours at work, or you can help your partner edit their resume if they want to find a higher-paying job.

### DISCUSS A FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT

If you're comfortable gifting or loaning your partner money to put toward their debts, iron out all the details. Specify dollar amounts and write it all down.

Lambert, for example, started by offering a six-month, interest-free \$2,000 loan to Mazza. Over time, they both felt comfortable with additional, larger loans. □

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# Green comet zooming our way, last visited 50,000 years ago

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.  
(AP) — A comet is streaking back our way after 50,000 years.

The dirty snowball last visited during Neanderthal times, according to NASA. It will come within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of Earth Wednesday before speeding away again, unlikely to return for millions of years.

So do look up, contrary to the title of the killer-comet movie "Don't Look Up."

Discovered less than a year ago, this harmless green comet already is visible in the northern night sky with binoculars and small telescopes, and possibly the naked eye in the darkest corners of the Northern Hemisphere. It's expected to brighten as it draws closer and rises higher over the horizon through the end of January, best seen in the predawn hours. By Feb. 10, it will be near Mars, a good landmark.

Skygazers in the Southern Hemisphere will have to wait until next month for a glimpse.

While plenty of comets have graced the sky over the past year, "this one seems probably a little bit bigger and therefore a little bit brighter and it's coming a little bit closer to the Earth's orbit," said NASA's



This photo provided by Dan Bartlett shows comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF) on Dec. 19, 2022. It last visited during Neanderthal times, according to NASA.

Associated Press

comet and asteroid-tracking guru, Paul Chodas.

Green from all the carbon in the gas cloud, or coma, surrounding the nucleus, this long-period comet was discovered last March by astronomers using the Zwicky Transient Facility, a wide field camera at Caltech's Palomar Observatory. That explains its official, cumbersome name: comet C/2022 E3 (ZTF).

On Wednesday, it will hurtle between the orbits of Earth and Mars at a relative speed of 128,500 mph (207,000 kilometers). Its nucleus is thought to be about a mile (1.6 kilometers) across, with its tails extending millions of miles (kilometers).

The comet isn't expected

to be nearly as bright as Neowise in 2020, or Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake in the mid to late 1990s.

But "it will be bright by virtue of its close Earth passage ... which allows scientists to do more experiments and the public to be able to see a beautiful comet," University of Hawaii astronomer Karen Meech said in an email.

Scientists are confident in their orbital calculations putting the comet's last swing through the solar system's planetary neighborhood at 50,000 years ago. But they don't know how close it came to Earth or whether it was even visible to the Neanderthals, said Chodas, director of the Center for Near Earth

Object Studies at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

When it returns, though, is tougher to judge.

Every time the comet skirts the sun and planets, their gravitational tugs alter the iceball's path ever so slightly, leading to major course changes over time. Another wild card: jets of dust and gas streaming off the comet as it heats up near the sun.

"We don't really know exactly how much they are pushing this comet around," Chodas said.

The comet a time capsule from the emerging solar system 4.5 billion years ago came from what's known as the Oort Cloud well beyond Pluto. This deep-freeze haven for comets is believed to stretch more than one-quarter of the way to the next star. □



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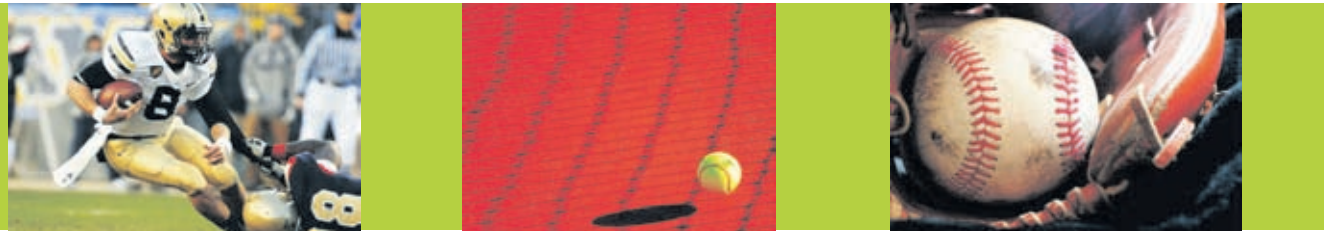
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# SPORTS



## Djokovic tops Paul; faces Tsitsipas in Australian Open final

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Of all of his considerable talents, Novak Djokovic's ability to cast aside whatever appears to stand in his way might be the most valuable. So forget about the potential distraction of his father's decision to stay away from Rod Laver Arena for Djokovic's semifinal against unseeded American Tommy Paul at the Australian Open on Friday after getting caught up in a flap over being seen with a group waving banned Russian flags at the tournament. Forget about the heavily taped left hamstring that was an issue for Djokovic last week. Forget about just how physical the points were against Paul. Forget about how Djokovic produced twice as many unforced errors, 24, as winners, 12, in the opening set. Forget about the lull of four games in a row that went to Paul. Forget about the brief back-and-forth with the chair umpire.

And remember this: Djokovic simply does not lose semifinals or finals at Melbourne Park. Does. Not. Lose. And so, not surprisingly, he overcame some shaky play in the early going and took over the match, beating Paul 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 to close in on a 10th Australian Open championship and 22nd Grand Slam title overall. From 5-all in the first set, Djokovic claimed seven games in a row and 14 of the last 17.

"I'm really thankful that I still have enough gas in my legs to be able to play at this level," said Djokovic, a 35-year-old from Serbia. "Some long rallies, you could really feel them. We both had heavy legs in the first set. I was really fortunate to kind of hold my nerves toward the end of the first set. That was a key. After that, I started



Novak Djokovic of Serbia celebrates after defeating Tommy Paul of the U.S. in their semifinal at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

swinging through the ball more." He extended his Australian Open winning streak to 27 matches, the longest in the Open era, which dates to 1968. There was a pause in that string of victories a year ago, of course, when Djokovic was deported from Australia before competition began because he was not vaccinated against COVID-19. He still has not gotten the shots, but the strict border controls established by the country during the pandemic have been eased.

"Of course, it's not pleasant for me to go through this with all the things that I had to deal with last year and this year in Australia. It's not something that I want or need," said Djokovic, who defended his father, Srdjan, for standing with a group of people waving Russian flags at least one showing an image of Vladimir Putin after the son's quarterfinal victory against a Russian opponent.

"I hope that people will let it be," Djokovic said, "and we can focus on tennis."

That is what the No. 4-seed-

ed Djokovic himself will hope to do Sunday when he takes on No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, who eliminated Karen Khachanov 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3 to reach his first final at Melbourne Park and second at a Slam.

Whoever wins the final will rise to No. 1 in the ATP rankings. For Djokovic, that would mark a return to a spot he has occupied for more weeks than anyone; for Tsitsipas, it would mark a debut there.

"I like that number. It's all about you. It's singular. It's '1,'" said Tsitsipas, who was 0-3 in Australian Open semifinals before Friday. "These are the moments that I've been working hard for."

Djokovic is now a perfect 19-0 over the last two rounds in Melbourne, and his nine triumphs there already are a men's record. If he can add one more to go alongside his seven titles at Wimbledon, three at the U.S. Open and two at the French Open, Djokovic would equal Nadal for the most Grand Slam trophies earned by a man.

"Winning Grand Slams and being the No. 1 in the world is probably the two biggest peaks that you can climb as a professional tennis player," said Djokovic, who is 10-2 against Tsitsipas, taking the last nine encounters in a row. "So let's see what happens."

Tsitsipas' other major final came at the 2021 French Open, when he grabbed the first two sets before blowing that big lead and losing to Djokovic in five.

Which was all related to an amusing moment this week, when Djokovic said about Tsitsipas: "He has never played a final, am I wrong?" Reminded by reporters about what happened at Roland Garros, Djokovic replied: "That's right. Sorry, my bad."

Asked about that exchange, Tsitsipas responded with a deadpan expression and the words: "I don't remember, either."

Until this week, the 35th-ranked Paul never had been past the fourth round in 13 previous appearances at majors.

The 25-year-old was born

in New Jersey and grew up in North Carolina, playing tennis at a club where the walls were festooned with posters of Andy Roddick the last American man to win a Grand Slam singles title, way back at the 2003 U.S. Open. That drought will continue for now, because even though Djokovic was not at his best in the opening set, he was good enough at the end of it, breaking in the last game, and never relented.

"He didn't really let me execute any game plan that I wanted to do," Paul said. The blips for Djokovic arrived right at the outset.

The footwork was not up to his usual reach-every-ball standard. The shotmaking was subpar. The serving was so-so. He started gesturing and shouting in the direction of coach Goran Ivanisevic and the rest of this entourage.

In the first game, Djokovic flubbed an overhead, a weakness he's never solved. He dumped a backhand into the net. He double-faulted. Still, he overcame that to get off to a 5-1 lead. Then came a quick switch in direction.

Djokovic got broken when serving for the set there. And again at 5-3, when Paul walloped a down-the-line forehand and Djokovic's backhand on a 29-stroke point landed out. Paul held for 5-all.

Might he be making a match of it?

Not for much longer. Djokovic, the greatest returner or his, or maybe any, generation, broke to close that set, when Paul sent a forehand wide. Serbian flags were displayed throughout the stands and the air was filled with chants of Djokovic's two-syllable nickname, "No-le! No-le!" The contest was never much of a contest from there on out. □



## 4 of NFL's best TEs on display in conference title games

By **DAVE SKRETTA**

AP Sports Writer

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)** —

When Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes headed up the tunnel inside Arrowhead Stadium to have X-rays taken on his sprained right ankle, and Chad Henne trotted onto the field in the second quarter of their divisional playoff game against Jacksonville, it was obvious who the backup quarterback was going to target.

Not that the Jaguars could do anything about it.

Henne's first throw went to Travis Kelce. So did another. And another. And by the time the Chiefs were on the doorstep of the end zone, it was the All-Pro tight end whose short touchdown grab finished off a 98-yard scoring drive.

In that respect, Kelce was like a big, comfy security blanket for the Chiefs, who went on to win 27-20 and advance into a Sunday night rematch with the Cincinnati Bengals for the AFC title. Kelce finished with 14 catches, one off the NFL playoff record, and along the way continued his run on career statistical charts too numerous to count.

"Every time I step up here," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said afterward, "I feel like he breaks another record." Kelce isn't the only standout tight end in the conference championships, though. The Bengals feature Hayden Hurst in their high-flying attack, and the



**Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) celebrates his touchdown against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of an NFL divisional round playoff football game, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo.**

49ers' George Kittle and the Eagles' Dallas Goedert will square off in the NFC title game.

But it's been Kelce who, over the past decade, has continued to revolutionize the position.

He is athletic enough to beat one-on-one coverage. Crafty enough to find holes in zones. And while the 33-year-old is a little bit older and perhaps a tad bit slower these days, he's also a whole lot wiser, and his uncanny rapport with Mahomes and Henne, apparently makes him a match-up nightmare for defensive coordinators.

"It's like Travis knows exactly where Patrick is, what

he's going to do when he scrambles to his right or his left," said Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who sees enough of him in training camp and practice.

"To me, that's the most amazing thing," Spagnuolo said. "How they get that, I'll never know."

Each of the tight ends playing Sunday brings something unique to their teams. Hurst keeps defensive backfields from focusing entirely on Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd, thus taking some of the pressure off one of the best trios of wide receivers in the game. He had four catches for 45 yards in the wild-card

round against Baltimore before catching five passes for 59 yards and a score in the divisional round against Buffalo. Goedert brings a certain physical attitude to the potent Philadelphia offense. Or, as Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts put it, when he's on the field "he's trying to punish somebody. He's not trying to spare no man." Take their divisional win over the Giants. Hurts threw to his 6-foot-5, 256-pound tight end on the game's third play, and Goedert proceeded to plant New York cornerback Adoree' Jackson with a stiff arm, helping to set the tone for the rest of the night. Goedert finished the drive with

a touchdown catch to kick off the 38-7 rout.

"He's tough to tackle. He is really tough to tackle," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said. "I wouldn't want to tackle him."

His counterpart in San Francisco is equally tough to tackle, though not because Kittle bulldozers defenders so much as he makes them miss. Kittle did that on five catches for 95 yards in their divisional win over the Cowboys.

The tone the ever-smiling Kittle sets for his team? One of loose, unbridled joy.

"Times we sort of feel uptight and whatnot, Kittle is like, the guy to put a smile on your face and say, 'Hey, we're good enough,' that kind of thing," 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy said.

"He does bring energy and good vibes to everyone, and honestly, I do feel like he gets us back into the zone of playing well."

"So that's what he does, and I think he's the best in the NFL with just his personality and everything like that, too."

Kelce is playing in his fifth consecutive AFC title game. Hurst made the playoffs earlier in his career in Baltimore. Goedert is in the postseason for the fourth time while Kittle is playing in his third conference title game in four years.

That's four of the game's best tight ends, all trying to reach the Super Bowl this Sunday. □

## AP Source: Tagovailoa to miss Pro Bowl, still in protocol

By **ALANIS THAMES**

AP Sports Writer

**MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)** —

Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa remains in the NFL's concussion protocol and will not participate in the 2023 Pro Bowl, a person with knowledge of the matter told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision has not been announced officially. Tagovailoa was diagnosed

with his second concussion of the 2022 season more than a month ago, after a Dec. 25 loss to Green Bay. He missed Miami's final three games, including a playoff loss to Buffalo.

Tagovailoa had been selected as a Pro Bowl first alternate and would have replaced either Joe Burrow or Patrick Mahomes, one of whom will play in Super Bowl LVII after Sunday's AFC Championship game. The Pro Bowl will be held on

Sunday Feb. 5, one week before the Super Bowl.

The Dolphins have repeated that they remain committed to Tagovailoa as their starter for the 2023 season.

"That's something that's driven by the doctors," Miami coach Mike McDaniel said after the season ended. "They're the experts in those fields, and when they tell us that he's ready to play and as we expect, when they tell us that he's



**Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa (1) sets up to pass during fourth quarter of an NFL football game against the Buffalo Bills at Highmark Stadium on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 in Orchard Park, N.Y.**

Associated Press

ready to play coming in the spring or whatever, then

we'll press forward in that direction." □



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